

The Ocean Spray plant, located in Henderson, NV, was completed 9 years ago and employs roughly 200 people. This plant provides the western United States with cranberry juice and other beverages. I am honored to represent the workers at the plant on this occasion and look forward to their continued accomplishments in safety and excellence.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WATER QUALITY FINANCING ACT OF 2003

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2003

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that today, Chairman DON YOUNG and I are introducing the "Water Quality Financing Act of 2003."

As many members know, the American Society of Civil Engineers recently graded the condition of the infrastructure throughout the country. Wastewater infrastructure received a "D."

Nearly half of sewer pipes in American cities are over 50 years old. Some are over 100 years old. Treatment plants built in the 1970's need to be upgraded. New mandates to manage municipal stormwater runoff have gone into effect. And water quality must be improved.

As a nation, we are not investing enough in our wastewater treatment infrastructure to ensure that we will continue to keep our waters clean. Unless we act, we could lose the significant gains in water quality that have been achieved over the last 30 years.

There are multiple reasons for our current situation.

The Federal government has redirected local resources by imposing unfunded mandates on our communities.

Some State and local governments have chosen other local priorities before maintaining wastewater infrastructure because it was "out of sight, out of mind."

But, instead of assigning blame, we need to work together to solve these problems.

We must breathe life into partnerships using the resources of Federal, State and local governments, the private sector and local ratepayers. No one sector will be able to carry this responsibility alone.

We also must meet the challenge of finding more efficient and less expensive ways to address our wastewater treatment needs.

According to an analysis by the Congressional Budget Office, the gap between current spending and needed investment could be over \$200 billion over the next 20 years. The actual amount of needed future investment depends heavily on the actions of Federal, State and local governments.

If we can achieve a greater environmental return on our investment with alternative treatment systems and can increase efficiencies through partnerships, regionalization, and improved operation and maintenance, we can cut the gap between current spending and needed investment in half.

This means we need to both increase investment and take action to reduce costs.

The "Water Quality Financing Act of 2003" addresses these issues by:

(1) Authorizing \$20 billion over five years in Federal assistance through State Revolving Loan Funds;

(2) Encouraging innovative and alternative approaches to solving water quality problems and financing infrastructure improvements;

(3) Encouraging appropriate management of infrastructure assets, including planning for the payment of the costs of repair and replacement; and

(4) Increasing support for small and disadvantaged communities through funding, technical assistance, and increased subsidies.

There are a variety of competing policies that continue to be discussed as we update this program. In crafting this bill we have looked at the national goal of improving water quality, the current demands on the Federal budget, and the responsibilities of local communities to provide municipal services and maintain their local wastewater systems.

We have worked closely with members on both sides of the aisle and the various stakeholders to advance the goal of improving the infrastructure in the most cost effective manner. We have received favorable feedback from diverse parties. The Water Quality Financing Act of 2003 embraces innovative solutions for these competing interests and I urge members to support this legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF ZZZ'S TO A'S

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2003

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, there is a growing crisis in America. With early school start times, some before 7:00 a.m., adolescents do not get enough sleep. The National Sleep Foundation reports that children and adolescents need at least 9 to 10 hours each night. But few sleep that much, and even fewer sleep on a regular schedule. Over time sleep deprivation leads to serious consequences for the health, safety, social behavior, and academic achievement of the nation's youth. This is simply unacceptable, especially since the solution is so easy. We must encourage schools to push back their start times to at least 8:30 a.m.—a schedule more in tune with adolescents' biological sleep and wake patterns and more like the normal adult workday.

A recently published study by Dr. Kyla Wahlstrom at the University of Minnesota demonstrates the impact of later school start times. After the Minneapolis Public School District changed the starting times of seven high schools from 7:15 a.m. to 8:40 a.m., Dr. Wahlstrom investigated the impact of this change on school performance and the results are encouraging. Dr. Wahlstrom found improvement in attendance and enrollment rates, increased daytime alertness, and decreased student-reported depression. If we allow adolescents to perform in accordance with their biological clocks, we provide them with the opportunity to succeed in school. Further, adequate sleep benefits adolescents by decreasing their chances of sleep-related car accidents and child obesity.

As more research is done, picture is clear—with early school start times, we place undue pressure on adolescents' ability to perform and achieve in school. Some school districts have responded to the research and have pushed school start times back. In total, 34

school districts across 19 states have pushed back school start times. In addition, the evidence has led nearly 100 additional school districts to consider changes.

I continue to advocate for later school start times and today I am re-introducing the ZZZ's to A's resolution to encourage schools to push back their start times to at least 8:30 a.m. I urge my colleagues to join me in this initiative. By encouraging schools to push back their start times and allowing adolescents to get enough sleep, we provide students with the opportunity to function normally, achieve in school, and be their best!

TRIBUTE TO AMHERST REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM, 2003 MASSACHUSETTS DIVISION I STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2003

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the community spirit of the Amherst Regional High School Boys Basketball Team of Amherst, Massachusetts and congratulate them on winning the 2003 Massachusetts State Championship for Boys Division I Basketball.

The team had a remarkable season this year and their accomplishment is well deserved. They finished with a record of 21-4 and the state title win was the first ever for the Amherst Boys Basketball Team. These talented young men pulled together and worked as a team to defeat an admirable and previously unbeaten foe in Central Catholic of Lawrence, Massachusetts. Each player put aside personal goals and focused intently on their common aim—to be the best in Massachusetts High School Basketball.

I also want to acknowledge their coach, Jim Matuszko, and the excellent leadership he has provided since becoming Head Coach five years ago. Jim, an Amherst graduate himself, returned to build a team that has become the pride of the entire community. With a staff of dedicated assistant coaches and a great deal of support from students and parents, he created a model program. Jim's athletes are not only dedicated team members, but leaders in the community.

Again, I congratulate the students and coaches of Amherst Regional High School on their extraordinary championship season.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2003

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for floor votes on Monday, March 31st due to a long-standing prior commitments.

If I had been present, I would have voted in the negative for final passage of H.R. 1463 the "Small Pox Vaccination Compensation Fund Act."